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Season's Greetings



Karen Gervais and her daughter Annika of Haliburton run together at the Jolly Jog on Sunday, Dec. 12 in Haliburton. Organized by the Township of Dysart et al, the annual event drew 17 participants, who ran and walked the three routes available, which all started at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. Formerly the Ugly Sweater Run, the event was not held last year because of the pandemic. /DARREN LUM Staff

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Calling all bird watchers and anyone that wants to help

ED POROPAT

Special to *County Life*

A blanket of snow across the Haliburton Highlands once again heralds the arrival of the annual Minden Christmas Bird Count. It's time to get those bird feeding stations stocked. This year, our count will take place on Saturday, Dec. 18, and will mark the 55th consecutive year that this event has occurred.

For those unfamiliar with Christmas Bird Counts, it can seem like a somewhat daunting task.

How does it work? How do you know you haven't counted the same bird twice? The Christmas Bird Count started way back in 1900 from what was originally a Christmas Day hunt. As the number of birds began to decline, it evolved into a yearly, non-consumptive census instead. This tradition has continued to the present day, with thousands of counts occurring across two continents and tens of thousands of citizen scientists contributing in any manner they can. In order to gain some sense of change, the count is conducted within the same standardized circle every year. Our 24 kilometre count circle includes local communities such as Minden, Lochlin, Gelert, Ingoldsby, Kinmount, Miner's Bay, and Moore Falls.

The standardized census occurs around the same time frame each year and is limited to a 24-hour period. On one specific day each year, field observers fan out across the designated area (each group with their own "piece of the pie") and attempt to find and count



Above, an American tree sparrow stands still momentarily.

Left, a Cooper's hawk stares back. /Photos submitted by Ed Poropat

every bird they can see or hear. Notes are kept, detailing how much effort is expended (eg. hours on foot, kilometres driven, etc.) so the data can be statistically compared to other years in a valid manner. While this is occurring, feeder watchers throughout the count area are also contributing. They record birds visiting their backyard feeding stations and again keep track of the number of hours they spend watching. When the day is done, a quick picture of the local bird diversity and relative abundance can be gleaned. After our count is com-

bined with hundreds of others across the continent, however, we finally obtain some meaningful insights into avian movements, and abundance. So, what kind of bird life can we expect this winter? Of course, weather and local conditions always play a major role on count day, as well as the days leading up to it. Presently, most of our large lakes are still wide open, with minimal ice-cover. The late freeze-up in the far north has many arctic waterfowl still migrating through our area. Some may linger for our count, especially if the lakes remain

open. Loons seem to be tardy with their departure this year. Many are still in the area, fishing and fattening up for their flight south. Trumpeter swans seem to have taken up winter residence in the past several years. They are now an expected species in our count. Ruffed grouse populations appear to be strong this year. I frequently scare up birds when out walking. Raptors appear to be doing well also. Bald eagles are now a regular sight in the county in winter, and even Peregrine

see page 3

CountyLife

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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**All inserts are to selected distribution areas.*

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

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from all of us at Haliburton Timber Mart

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Look to treetops for clues in finding birds

from page 2

falcons and Cooper's hawks have been seen recently, hunting pigeons in town.

Every year, birders scan the treetops not only for birds, but also for seed crops. These food sources often help predict what species might be present during the coming months. Some of our conifers have had an abundance of cones this year, especially the spruces. This should encourage some of the northern finches to visit this winter. Common redpolls, both red and white-winged crossbills, pine siskins, and evening grosbeaks have all been seen or heard in our area recently, although none are particularly common yet.

Most of these birds will remain to the north or east of our area due to an abundance of food there, but others will likely visit in the coming months, taking advantage of our local food sources. American goldfinches seem common this winter. Stocking your feeders with black oil sunflower seeds and/or nyger seed may encourage these northern finches to visit your yards. The abundance of cone seeds in our region also translates into a healthy rodent population. With rodents more common, owls may become more visible, especially around feeding stations. Checking trees and perches carefully around the perimeter of your yard may reveal one of these quiet, beautiful creatures hunting stealthily on your property.

Blue jays seemed to show only a moderate movement this fall. There appear to be a decent number of acorns and



A long-tailed duck, which is an arctic breeder that comes through Haliburton County, swims away. Photo submitted by Ed Poropat.

beechnuts in our region, so most have likely decided to stay for the winter. You can expect them to terrorize your feeders! Canada jays, on the other hand, continue their decline due largely to climate change. Once an expected species in the Minden count, it is now genuinely a rare bird in the southern part of Haliburton County. Putting out suet might encourage one to spend the winter in your neighbourhood. Consider yourself fortunate if you manage to attract one of these tame and charismatic birds to your

yard.

Not all birds will come readily to hanging feeders. Scattering some mixed seed on the ground can also encourage birds such as sparrows, juncos, and even cardinals to visit your yard.

If you would like to participate as a field counter or a feeder watcher, please contact Ed Poropat at 705-457-3018 or email at ed.barb@sympatico.ca. To report birds at your feeder on the day of the count, you can phone Poropat at the above number on Dec. 20. Alternatively,

you can e-mail your results to Poropat or mail them to 71 Dean Court, Box 1204, Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0.

Please send your data in promptly so it can be tallied and included in the report to American birds. Species not seen by anyone on Dec. 18, but found on Dec. 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, or 21, will be recorded as count week birds. We hope you'll join us on Dec. 18 to help make the 55th Minden Christmas Bird Count a continued success.

*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!*

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Decorative day

Minden resident Robyn Rogers adds lights to her tree outside her home on Nov. 20. Rogers said she loves to decorate her property for Christmas and all of the different special times of the year, which includes Halloween. /DARREN LUM Staff



Right, with a blanket of snow, the Minden property at night was glowing with the festive spirit on Saturday, Dec. 4.



Robyn Rogers works with her lawn ornament, as part of her preparations to decorate her property for Christmas.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS
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Jane’s legacy of love

Haliburton resident Jane van Nood adds another ornament to her tree, which had a gold and silver theme on Saturday, Nov. 20 outside her home. Jane, who passed on Monday, Nov. 22, loved to decorate her property, believing it brightened the mood of those that saw it. Her husband Don said, “That was her inner light shining outwards,” in describing the decorated property with more than a 1,000 ornaments, including some 300 balls on the tree she is pictured decorating with the handcut glass ornaments she made. The glass ornaments reflects the light from passing cars and shimmers. /DARREN LUM Staff



The decorated tree is lit by a spotlight in front of Jane and Don van Nood’s home. Since Jane passed, the Haliburton and District Lions Club members have come to help finish the decorating that was started by her.



Jane van Nood’s handcut glass ornament reflects light from a passing car from County Road 21 on Wednesday, Dec. 8 in Haliburton. Decorating the property for Christmas was a labour love for her.

Merry Christmas to one and all!

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Send your letters to the editor to
darren@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed
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County Life is produced by The Haliburton County Echo
 and Minden Times, and published by White Pine Media
 Corp.

Audited circulation: 6,372 July 1 - Dec 31, 2015

Editorial

How the first Christmas tree came to be

I WAS THINKING the other day how the time has come to go out and find a good tree for this Christmas season, which is fast approaching. Now that I'm an adult and live in an apartment, I'll no doubt be gravitating toward a smaller pre-cut tree for the first time, although I'm sure that my folks down on Wolfe Island will have a larger Christmas tree, specially cut by my dad to ring in the season.



MIKE RILEY
Reporter

As a youngster, it was always a special treat to get bundled up and take a drive up north with my parents to get that perfect tree, usually six or seven feet tall and a good four to five feet wide at the bottom. What kind of tree would we get; fir, spruce or pine? What fullness of tree would we find? Would it fit on the car? Would

our job tying it down to the top of the car hold until we coasted back into our driveway or would the tree pull a "Houdini," escape its bonds and end up on the road behind us?

Once home, and carefully taken off the top of the car, we'd get the tree inside and find the perfect spot for it. Then the decorating would begin, but not before breaking out the eggnog, with a little rum added for my folks, and Christmas carols to go along with the tree trimming. And of course, hope that one of our omnipresent cats didn't get any bright ideas and decide to practice their climbing prowess on our new Christmas tree, also known as the brand-new scratching post that just (to the cats) magically appeared.

Who was it that first decided it was a good idea to go out and cut down a tree, decorate it and put into their home for the Christmas season? Well, in addition to coming up with my favourite car of all time, the Volkswagen Beetle, Germany also gets the credit for this enduring holiday tradition. They introduced Christmas trees back in the 16th century, and the rest is history. There is a legend in Germany that tells the story of how the first Christmas tree came to be;

On a cold Christmas Eve night, a forester and his family were keeping warm around a fire. There was a knock on the door, and answering it, the forester found a little boy on the doorstep, lost and alone. The family welcomed the little boy in to their home, fed and washed him and took care of him. The next morning, Christmas Day, the family were woken by a choir of angels, and the little boy had become Jesus, the Christ child. Going into the front garden, the Christ child broke a branch off a fir tree and gave it to the family as thanks for looking after him. Since that night, people have remembered this by bringing a Christmas tree into their homes.

Adding lighted candles to Christmas trees is usually credited to that period's Protestant reformer, Martin Luther. According to History.com, Luther was walking home one winter evening, composing a sermon, and was awestruck by the stars in the nighttime sky. To recapture this wonder for his family, he put up a tree and wired its branches with lighted candles.

While the German settlers in Pennsylvania had Christmas trees as early as 1747, they were not accepted by most Americans, who saw them as pagan symbols. It was these German settlers who came up to Canada from the United States in the 1700s

who brought the tradition up here, even before we were called Canada or were even a nation. They also brought with them other festive traditions we now take for granted, like advent calendars, gingerbread houses and Christmas cookies.

The Christmas tree as a Christmas staple really took off when Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, put up a Christmas tree at Windsor Castle in the 1840s. While some say it was Queen Charlotte, the German wife of George III, who put the first Christmas tree up at Queen's Lodge, Windsor in 1800, it was Prince Albert who popularized this tradition and made it fashionable throughout England, the United States and Canada.

Here in Canada, as of 2017 (the most recent year available from Statistics Canada), there were 1,872 Christmas tree farms across the country exporting over 2.2 million trees around the world, worth \$49.4 million in sales revenue. Ontario accounted for 34,486 of those trees, worth \$862,798. The Christmas tree has gone from staple to phenomenon.

So, this year, while I'm trying to wash the tree sap from my hands while alternately decorating the tree and taking sips from my large glass of eggnog, I wish all of you readers the very best in getting your own Christmas trees and getting them setup in your own homes. And I wish you all the best for the Christmas season, as conveyed in this old Irish proverb:

*May you be poor in misfortune this Christmas
 and rich in blessings
 slow to make enemies
 quick to make friends
 and rich or poor, slow or quick
 as happy as the New Year is long!*

Top 10 reasons to hum a Christmas carol

NOW THAT the Holiday season is here, Christmas carols will be sung and heard everywhere. And while that is great temptation to do otherwise, there are many reasons why sometimes it's better to hum rather than sing along. Here are the top 10.

1. Because you learned the lyrics for most of them while you were in the navy.
2. You still have a slab of Christmas cake in your mouth.
3. When you sing people immediately request "silent night."
4. You are still unsure if it pararumpapumpum or pararumpabumbum ...
5. You just hit your thumb with a hammer and the grandkids are visiting.
6. Everyone is sick of you humming, "Smoke on the water."
7. To prevent you from saying



STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

- what you really think of tofurkey.
8. You are still learning the clarinet.
9. Because everyone in your Barber Shop quartet said so.
10. No one wants to hear you play beat-box to Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer.

It's coming on Christmas
 Though nature is tired
 There's something still living
 That keeps us inspired
 The granite itself
 In an old Highland dance
 Dons snowy-white kilts
 And December romance

When hill, field and lake
 Cold wet blankets conceal
 What seems to be snoozing
 Wild heartbeats reveal
 That hope's truly holding
 Warm space for all souls
 And we in this county
 Remember our goals

To celebrate living
 A star, humble birth
 World peace, music, family
 Santa's sweet girth
 Not all folk are jolly
 For some it's quite hard

The gift

To sing about angels
 Or write a brave card
 Yet look for the silver
 The twinkle, the glow
 Astonishing diamonds
 Which play on the snow
 Or cut a young pine
 Weave a garland for door
 Cook kitchen aromas
 Whole family waits for

Read Dickens to grandma
 While grandfather cooks
 Guard under-tree parcels
 Wrapped paint sets and books
 New tools, new pyjamas
 Guitar, slippers, quilt
 A backpack, sheet music
 Dollhouse custom-built

But prior to kinfolk
 At table to dine
 Before any presents
 Or carols or wine

Each adult fits meat
 And hot veg into dishes
 Each child wraps a toy
 For another child's wishes

And off to the neighbours
 We walk with arms full
 The call to share blessings
 Is night's strongest pull
 It's then we sing hymns
 About comfort and joy
 Of bells and of feasting
 Of good girl and boy

These Highlands have witnessed
 A Christmas or two
 Without perfect kindness
 Rejoicing won't do
 And even dour Scrooge
 Once so grim and severe
 Learned giving beats getting
 At this time of year

Deborah J Reed

The most memorable Christmas

CHRIS DROST

County Life Staff

Sometimes the most memorable Christmas is a fantastic one, other times it may be one filled with drama or something unusual.

The following individuals kindly shared their most memorable Christmas for everyone to enjoy and reflect on their own Christmases past.

My most memorable Christmas was the year we went to my daughter's apartment in Toronto for Christmas. There was a big sleet storm and the power went out. We put the turkey in a cooler on the balcony for a while because we were worried about keeping it cool. When the power didn't come back on, we ended up cooking Christmas dinner on a Coleman stove on the balcony.

John Kirby

I guess my most memorable Christmas was the one where I had the mumps and my younger sister had the chicken pox. I was too sick to get out of bed to unwrap my presents.

Avis Price

My most memorable Christmas was not too long ago. We had gathered at the family cottage for a great turkey dinner. Once the plates were cleared away and the dishes washed, we began an evening of games. I had rolled up chocolates and other treats inside a big ball of food wrap. Everyone took turns wearing oven mitts and trying to peel off a layer of the wrap. If you peeled back to a prize you got to keep it. It sounds crazy now, but we all laughed so hard.

Dannielle Thompson Switzer

One year the Mennonites came skating on Fraser Lake carrying lanterns. It was so magical. My husband and I still talk about it.

Cathy Trimble

Travelling to Georgian Bay to have Christmas with my grandma was always something memorable. It was a lot of work and I didn't enjoy the winter driving, but I enjoyed seeing everyone and playing cards after dinner. There was no pressure, just a quiet time.

Barb Croft

We had the Christmas tree in the rec room in the basement. My most memorable Christmas is the year that I went downstairs and there, in front of my eyes, were two brand new aluminum toboggans, a larger one for me and a smaller one for my younger brother.

Paul Jenkins

My most memorable Christmas is the year my husband and daughter and I went to Huntsville for Christmas with my sister. We walked about three miles each way to downtown Huntsville to do some Christmas shopping. The stores all wrapped the presents we bought so all we had to do is take them and put them under the tree. It was such a homey feel-

ing. When we got back my sister made us all hot chocolate with marshmallows.

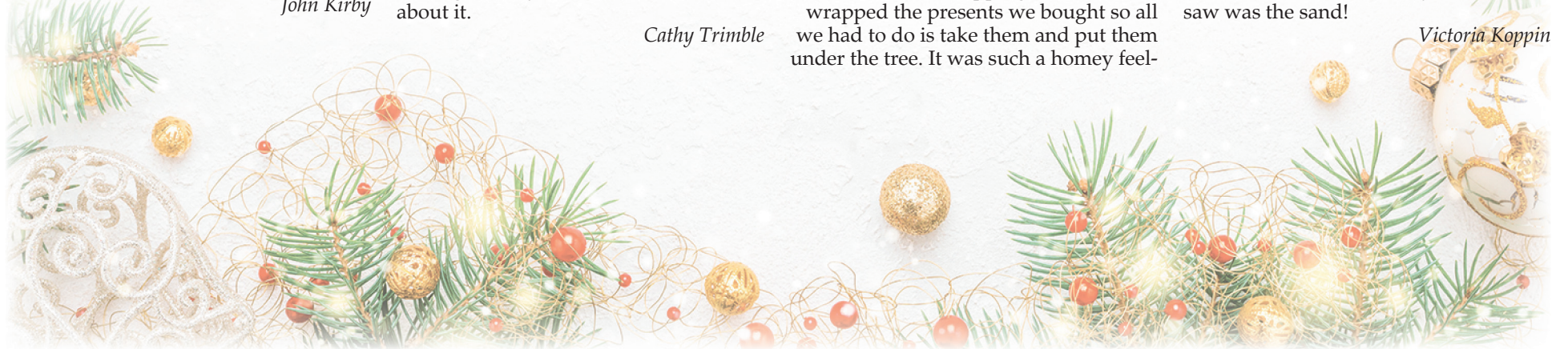
Dora Yateman

My most memorable Christmas is the year we made reindeer tracks on the roof with hockey sticks and added some goat poop as reindeer droppings. This worked with my son for two or three years. It is always so fun to do stuff that delights our kids.

Deb Jeffrey

It's surprising that one of our most memorable Christmases was nowhere near our home. Our family rented a house in south Florida, and we drove down to all be together. We took a small Christmas tree and ornaments, and some homemade treats. The kids were thrilled to be able to decorate and eat Grandma's s cookies. We had local fish for Christmas dinner, brunch in a beach-front restaurant. The only "white" we saw was the sand!

Victoria Koppin



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Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

From the Cedar Winds Design ~ Build Team

Night Market memories made

Abbey Gardens was blown away by the turnout for their Holiday Night Market on Dec. 4. They estimated that more than 600 people showed up to the event, and raised more than \$5,000 for Abbey Gardens' educational programming. "We can not thank you enough for the generous donations you made, the support of our vendors, and the positive feedback we've received already," Ashley McCallister, Director of Operations at Abbey Gardens, said in an email. "We can't wait to do it again next year!" /NICK BERNARD Staff



Visitors line up for food at the Abbey Gardens' Food Hub. Everyone had the chance to warm up in line before heading back out to enjoy some snacks by the fire.



Kate Weatherell of 7th Monkey Designs was one several vendors under the tent outside the food hub at Abbey Gardens' Holiday Marketplace on Dec. 4.



*From our family
to yours,
we wish you
a very
happy holiday!*

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The importance of early intervention in child development

AMANDA DUMCOMBE-LEE

Point in Time

If you are a parent or caregiver in Haliburton County, you may have heard of Early Intervention at Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents. Or perhaps you have heard of or participated in some of our community and school-based programs previously offered (pre-pandemic), such as Mother Goose, Roots of Empathy, Summer Fun Zone, or Cardiff Kindergarten Readiness. Families may see us now at Sensitive Santa, infant massage, talk groups at EarlyON and SIRCH, or at the locally licensed childcare centres.

Did you know that Early Intervention services can have both short and long-term positive effects for children and families?

Early Intervention focuses on children from birth to age six and focuses on translating the science of mental health into practice to ensure children reach their fullest potential. The Early Intervention team supports families who have children that are at risk of developmental delay, are experiencing delays or have a diagnosis. Parents/caregivers can ask questions if they have concerns about their child's development. Our program offers intervention services and support to families of infants and children with developmental, social or behavioural concerns.

Early Intervention services focus on existing strengths, supporting fami-

lies with ideas and strategies that work for the family and fit in with things they already do. These services do not replace the role of the caregiver, but offer guidance, support and tools to help your child's development. Services are designed to be educational, therapeutic, and preventative, and delivered in the least intrusive manner possible.

Early Intervention staff at Point in Time have flexible hours and are able to provide services to families in their home, at their offices in Minden and Haliburton, in childcare programs, or in a community location. Staff are also available for phone and virtual appointments. It is a free and voluntary program, and families can withdraw at any time.

Many Early Intervention staff have been in their roles for years and have witnessed positive changes in the families they work with. "Meeting a family that is stressed and overwhelmed or worried about their child or their ability to parent ... and seeing them less stressed, feeling confident as a parent and able to appreciate the strengths and needs of their child, is wonderful to see," said early interventionist Cathy Constantino.

Decades of research has shown that early childhood intervention can make a lifelong difference in children's lives, including in the areas of educational attainment, financial stability, and broad health and wellness. Early intervention support can be extremely important for children who may be at risk for developmental delay. Early identification and treatment of developmental delay

is more important than ever, with the COVID-19 pandemic limiting opportunities for many children to learn and flourish.

"Early Intervention can change a child's developmental path and can improve the outcome for future milestones," said early interventionist Cynthia Hutchinson. "The sooner our team members get involved the greater the impact."

Referrals to early intervention support can be made by parents/caregivers, early

childhood educators or other professionals provided there are written consent from parents/caregivers. A child does not require a diagnosis to access Early Intervention services. You can contact Point in Time staff at (705) 457-5345 to book a Quick Access appointment. You can also keep your eye out for programs and activities in the community by following Point in Time on Facebook, visiting www.pointintime.ca, or signing up for our e-blasts at info@pointintime.ca.



May you find health,
happiness and peace
during the holiday
season and through
the coming year.



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Gates to the past

JANET TRULL

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*Still round the corner there may wait
A new road or a secret gate. ~ J.R.R. Tolkien*

Scottish and Welsh immigrants made up a large proportion of Haliburton County settlers and that was probably a good thing. Because these hills could have been carved out of the Scottish Highlands or the mountains of North Wales and dropped in the middle of this Canadian hinterland.

Highlanders the world over, it seems, are accustomed to unfair treatment by governments and wealthy landowners. Deep in their hearts, tucked away behind their hopeful dreams, they don't expect to get anything worthwhile for free. Hard work and harsh climates are bred in their bones, and they set about the business of survival without complaint. Many hamlets and roads in the county are named after Scottish and Welsh villages that experienced their share of pillaging by overlords. Carnarvon, Lochlin, Cardiff, Glamorgan, Harburn, and Dysart to name a few.

Looking back across the bridge of time, there is not much to suggest that Haliburton would be one of the pioneer villages to survive. You might suppose that it was destined to be a ghost town, like so many others. Trees extended down every ridge, ready to reclaim homesteads at the first sign of weakness. Moss and lichen crept over stone fences built to mark the boundaries of doomed farms.

On the wooden railway platform, disembarking passengers must have shivered. The weather may have been fine back in the city, but winter here is longer and deeper. The granite ridge can cast a cold shadow. A thousand such villages did not outlast a brief period of prosperity. Great tracts of forest were clear cut, reduced to pulp and paper and lumber, and then abandoned.

But there were some lucky cards in the hand that Haliburton was dealt. Its rugged beauty boasts a chain of connecting waterways that made the wilderness accessible. Landmarks of a successful settlement popped up one by one. Churches and hotels, mercantiles and mills, ironmongers and carriage makers. New



A gate on Old Donald Road in Haliburton. I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate - Arthur Wing Pinero. /Submitted by Janet Trull

houses sprouted from the mud and people stayed.

You do not have to wander far to see the signs of pioneers who were determined to make a home in these highlands. I love the gates, best of all, welcoming us to enter the past and appreciate those who loved this land before us.

I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate. ~ Arthur Wing Pinero

Starlings

Shadow-coloured birds brushing Air,
their feathers, bristles, stippling a stone Sky.
My eyes, mesmerized, by hundreds of starlings,
swarming above the stripped crowns of trees,
their motion, like waves, rolling through space,
shifting shape, as they drift across Sky,
a lunar Sun seeping through boulders of clouds, illuminating their flight,
pale light silvering strands of River flowing below,
Snow cloaking the slopes of its banks.
I stand on the bridge, frozen as the trees,
watching the starlings form a funnel,
these moving sculptures, moulded by their wings,
this flock of starlings, flooding the space above the bare trees,
dispersing like leaves in a windstorm.
I watch them scatter like ash across a shadowless Sky,
wondering where they will land,
in a swarm or alone, in branches or on Snow.
I peer up at the emptiness of Sky left behind,
striations of white mottling the stone,
Air swelling with the smell of Snow as I clamber down the bank towards the River,
and listen to the water hiccup over rocks,
hushing my thoughts that sometimes rush through me like a torrent.
I wonder about the starlings, whether they are making waves with their wings,
in the Air, somewhere, beneath another patch of Sky,
whether someone else's eyes are watching the changing shapes,
wondering about the contours of their own Life,
what fills the space, like the pearl of Sun spilling light onto Snow,
what cramps it, like the crumpled leaf wedged between the edges of two rocks,
waiting for water to free it so it can flow.
I linger on the riverbank, gazing up at Sky,
inhaling the space the starlings leave behind,
feathers of Snow floating down,
Air growing blurry as I hold out my hand,
catching snowflakes before they land.

Sylvie Kalenda



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and Peace throughout the New Year*

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The Pine

The pine
It calls to me,
This noble tree
Boughs akimbo, shaggy green
It does complete our outdoor scene
A pine's aroma stirs the mind
To all memories we can find
Gnarly bark that strips to reveal
Shimmering cream beneath the peel
Logs for cabins years long years ago
Shelter from cold winds that blow
A gum that bound the birch canoe
Gave us turpentine and varnish too
But for me, the pine that's planed and dressed
It's the feature I like best
Soft like satin, pale and creamy,
Yields to building, carving, most supremely
Looming tall against the sky
A witness called to testify
So when you walk our forest's fine
Appreciate the stately pine.

John Kirby

The way we were

BARRIE MARTIN

Haliburton County Folk Society

Music is alive and well in the Haliburton Highlands despite the impact of COVID. The pandemic forced a drastic reduction in the number of music performances over the last 21 months, but they do live on via Zoom and in the living rooms and basements of local residents. Live music is slowly easing back into our community. When life "returns" to a new normal, the live music scene will be back bigger and more vibrant than ever. This is said with great confidence, partly because most of us are very eager to attend live performances and partly because the foundation of music in this community is so solid. It helps to reflect on what has been to know what the future will bring.

Prior to COVID there was an incredible amount of music in the Highlands. In April 2019 we counted 64 concerts being presented in the weeks and months ahead. This count did not include several musical theatre productions, weekly performances at local restaurants and resorts, and several open stages. That seems like a lot of music for the size of our community. How did this happen? What were the contributing factors?

It starts with a tradition of arts in the community that began over 50 years with the formation of the Haliburton Guild of Fine Arts, which in turn spawned the establishment of the Haliburton School of Fine Art in 1967 (now Fleming College – Haliburton School of Art + Design) and the building of the present college campus in 2005. Thousands of students have taken summer and year-round courses that included music courses and workshops. The Arts Council-Haliburton Highlands (formed in 2003) brought together a wide range of artists and organizations in all disciplines and performing arts groups, which engendered a spirit of collaboration. In 2010, the Arts Council convened a roundtable for the performing arts that sparked the formation of an organization called Supporting Performing Arts in Rural and Remote Communities. The founding board of directors were all volunteers from the Haliburton Highlands. Their dedication, strategic thinking, three major symposia, support of the Arts Council and more than a half a million dollars

in funding helped SPARC (Supporting Performing Arts in Rural and Remote Communities) evolve into a provincial, if not nationally, significant organization. And it all started here!

Music also thrived due to the support of organizations such as the Haliburton County Development Corporation, Haliburton County Community Co-operative (home of the Haliburton County Folk Society), Rotary Clubs of Haliburton and Minden, Haliburton and District Lions Club and the many music groups. The support of local government through their municipal cultural plans and committees, and the fact that art was one of the strategic priorities of the County's tourism department influenced the growth of the performing arts. Restaurants, pubs and attractions such as the Dominion Hotel, McKecks Tap and Grill, the Rhubarb restaurant, Abbey Gardens, and Haliburton Highlands Brewing are important presenters of live music. The creation of the Forest Festival at Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve and the building of the Bone Lake amphitheatre with R. Murray Schafer performances and then a whole range of significant musicians/musical groups showed that the community had an appetite for a wide range of musical performances and inspired us to bigger things!

The spirit of collaboration and volunteerism, community radio; the variety of indoor and outdoors venues; an outstanding music program at local schools; private music instruction by talented instructors; recording studios; concert series; music camps, theatre, and festivals; and inspiring landscapes and lifestyles were other factors that contributed to the growth of the music scene prior to COVID. Above all we had great audiences. While our permanent and seasonal population is small, our zest for live music of all kinds was huge. These influences fostered a community of practice that attracted creators, producers, presenters, performers and audiences. The vitality of this music community is noteworthy (pun intended) indeed.

Since its founding in 1998, the Haliburton County Folk Society has contributed to the local music scene in variety of ways. The Society is grateful to have an opportunity to present this monthly column that explores the music of the Highlands. In future columns, various writers will continue to tell stories of our community of music.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from all of the staff at Emmerson Lumber, Emmerson Rent-All and Cottage Country Building Supplies



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Have an Elf on a Shelf? You need a gnome by the door



An example of a DIY gnome made with simple garden supplies and locally harvested materials. Submitted by Alison Squire

by ALISON SQUIRE
Haliburton County Master Gardener

The snow is here and it's time to have some fun! If you're looking for a quick and decorative project to do outside on a beautiful day, here are some simple crafting ideas.

First, you will need some evergreen branches. If you have access to a wooded area with evergreens, grab your boots, garden shears, and a toboggan (to carry the branches) and head out into the woods! Ideal branches are thick and full. A selection from different evergreens (cedar, pine, spruce, etc) will provide texture and interest to your planter or gnome. Be sure not to take too many branches from one tree, ideally no more than two, as you don't want to harm the tree. For planters, tall birch tree sticks provide interest, but be sure to only take branches from dead and fallen trees. Cutting birch branches off a living tree in winter can cause damage. Red dogwood stems will provide a pop of colour. These fast-growing shrubs are common in ditches alongside the highway, but don't harvest more than 30 per cent from each shrub to ensure its survival in the spring. Milkweed stems have interesting empty pods and baby beech tree branches hold their leaves all winter. If you can't harvest your own branches, you can usually purchase them from your local nursery or sometimes grocery store. Once you have your branches and materials, let your creative spirit lead you!

Gnome at your door

Start with an upside-down tomato cage. Weave smaller evergreen branches up through the wire cage and secure in place with wire or string. Once your cage is completely covered with evergreens, place a long pointy hat on top of the tomato cage points (a safety feature too). To add your gnome's nose, skewer your potato and secure it in place just under the hat. The more gnarled your potato is, the better it looks! Decorate with fun props (mitts, mini lantern, snowshoes, etc). Place at your front door to welcome visitors or assemble a few on your front lawn for a fun scene!

Materials for gnomes:

- * garden pruners
- * selection of evergreen branches
- * florist wire, string or twist ties
- * tomato cage
- * potato
- * vegetable skewer
- * fun decorations (hat, mitts, etc.)

Festive planters

If your planter is still outside and full of soil, bring it inside for a few days ahead of time to thaw out. Start by adding to your planter or urn with the tallest branches, such as the birch and/or dogwood sticks. Once in place, add in your evergreens for depth and texture. Then insert any interesting, dried foliage you've collected such as pine cones, milkweed pods, etc. If you want to add fruit, pomegranates on a skewer will last well



Christmas decorations can be made with simple garden supplies and locally harvested materials.

in winter weather. For a final touch, add decorations such as ribbon or plastic ornaments - glass ornaments can shatter in freezing weather. TIP: to easily place pine cones, ribbon and/or ornaments, first, secure them with wire to the end of a stick, then insert the stick into the planter at the desired height/depth.

Materials for planters:

- * garden pruners
- * selection of evergreen branches
- * florist wire, string or twist ties
- * planter pot with defrosted soil
- * birch tree and/or red dogwood sticks
- * beech baby branches, milkweed pods
- * ribbon and/or plastic ornaments
- * large pine cones
- * pomegranate(s)
- * vegetable skewers

The Haliburton County Master Gardeners is a volunteer

organization that provides horticultural advice specific to Haliburton and surrounding regions. Have your gardening questions answered or schedule an onsite consultation at www.haliburtonmastergardener.ca



A festive planter made with simple garden supplies and locally harvested materials. /Submitted by Alison Squire

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and A Happy New Year*

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For the love of Santa

CHRIS DROST

County Life Staff

I was only a small child but I remember that once I was old enough to dial my grandmother's phone number on that black rotary phone, (that lasted an entire generation in those days), I found great joy in calling her up and asking her to do her Santa interpretation, her ho-ho-ho. You would have thought it was the real Santa.

While I may be aging myself, I will say that in those days, children were a lot more naïve. That being the case, I didn't learn the whole story about Santa until I was almost 11 years old. Even then, I didn't want to believe it.

After pestering my mother with repeated questions about Santa, she sat me down and explained about how Christmas is all about love and it is through that love that you receive gifts, rather than the way I had always believed.

I can only imagine the look on my face when a couple of weeks later a knock came to our back door. No one ever



The festive season is less about what you receive and more about valuing the time you have with the ones you love. /NICK BERNARD File photo

knocked on our back door. When I ran and opened it, there stood my grandfather and behind him, the jolly old elf himself, Santa. Not wanting to believe what my mother had explained so care-

fully just weeks before, for a split second, I thought she must have been mistaken. There was Santa in a full red suit and beard with a twinkle in his eye.

By the time we all gathered in the

living room, my hopes were dashed. I discovered that under the hat, beard and red suit was, my Nanny. I learned for the very first time that she had been one of Santa's helpers for more than 30 years. It was her knee that I had sat on at holiday events for the company my father worked for. I had whispered my Christmas wishes in her ear all those times and never knew it was her. No wonder she had such a great ho-ho-ho.

My parents captured that evening on the camera and I still have those fond black and white photos of me with my very own Santa. I tried on the beard and more photos were snapped. One of those still has a place in a photo display in my home.

My mother was right. Christmas is all about love. Whether you receive many gifts, few, or none at all, it is the time that is spent with your loving family and friends that makes this time of year so special. I am one of the fortunate ones who has the legacy of this amazing grandmother as a foundation for my own life. This dear soul lived to the ripe old age of 97 and is still remembered and loved by all her grandchildren.

Community Events

The Book Nook

Minden Hills Library is now open, indoors, to one patron at a time.

When: 10 to 2 p.m. on the first and third Fridays of the month. Payment is by donation.

The Book Nook is run by volunteers from our Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library group. Your donations support the purchase of books,

enhancements and programmes in all Haliburton County libraries.

Environment Haliburton Enviro-Cafe

The Enviro-Cafe featuring Korey McKay, the County's climate action coordinator has been postponed until Tuesday, January 11 due to technical difficulties. We will post a new link to register for this event

on our website 2 weeks previous. Happy holidays from EH!

Free Public Skating sponsored by Karen Nimigon

Where: A.J. Larue Arena

When: Dec. 31, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Jan 2, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Free Public Skating sponsored by Karen Nimigon

Where: S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

When: Dec. 23, 2 to 4 p.m., Dec. 27, 6 to 8 p.m.

Send your event listing to Pat Lewis at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

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GET TO KNOW THE HUSKIES: RYAN HALL

ALEX GALLACHER

Special to *County Life*

After three seasons, Ryan Hall finally scored his first career OJHL (Ontario Junior Hockey League) goal earlier this season against the Toronto Patriots on Oct. 27, and since then Hall has been a substantial addition to the Huskies blue line. Adding seven more assists, the Haliburton-raised defenseman has enjoyed his three seasons so far in the league. In this second in the series of Getting to Know the Huskies we will be looking into the journey of Hall, who is one of only two local players on the Huskies' roster.

Since joining the league in the 2018-19 season, the Highland Storm alumnus has jumped around to three different teams in his time in the league. Joining the Trenton Golden Hawks as an AP (affiliate player), Hall made the team during the 2019-20 season and played 21 games before being shipped off to Lindsay to play for the Muskies for the final 25 games of the season. Despite not scoring any goals, he tallied seven assists over those 47 games.

Moving to the Whitby Fury for the 2021-22 season, Hall was given the opportunity to play in Minden. He calls it a dream come true.

"I started out in Trenton and was traded to the Muskies before Christmas," Hall said. "I then joined the Whitby Fury and when they became the Huskies it all worked out for me. I get to play at home in front my family and home fans. So it's been great."

Being able to play for his hometown team is an experience like no other. Hall never thought he would get the opportunity to play at a high level junior hockey, but when the Huskies' head coach Ryan Ramsay broke the news to him it led to a party in the Hall household.

Every night, Hall's friends and family are in attendance. An experience not many players in the OJHL get the luxury of having, players come from far and wide



Highland Storm alumnus Ryan Hall takes to the ice in front of friends and family before the home opener on Oct. 2 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. Hall has tallied eight points (one goal and seven assists as of Dec. 9) thanks in large part to playing where he was raised in front of family and friends./DARREN LUM Staff FILE

but Hall's family commute is roughly 30 minutes.

"When Ryan Ramsay told me the Huskies were coming home, I was really excited," Hall said. "My family could come to every game, the locals that I know could come and the town is full of big hockey fans so it was a great thing to find out for sure."

Joining the Huskies has been a treat for Hall, as he is having the best season of his career thus far. Scoring his first goal, as well as logging seven assists, in one season in Haliburton County he has already matched his totals from both Trenton and Lindsay combined. The first goal meant a lot to Hall as it took him two seasons of hard grinding to finally get that well deserved result.

"It means a lot as finally it came after all this time," Hall added. "I think I'm having my best season so far, all the guys have been super supportive and it's overall been amazing."

Hall feels at home on the Huskies roster with great teammates and very supportive coaching staff behind
see page 15



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from page 14

him. The dynamic has been very positive with a lot of room for personal growth and development.

All the guys on the team seem to get along well with one another, and there hasn't been a weak link on the team all season. Hall credits the mentorship of coach Ramsay as one of the biggest things helping his growth this season.

"Between Ryan Ramsay and Jordan Bailey, the coaching staff is awesome and I love working with them," Hall said. "All the guys are really close, a lot of us have actually played together growing up and I think this is the most fun I've ever had playing hockey."

The OJHL is viewed as the stepping stone for the next level for a lot of players in the league, but for Hall he has something else in mind for when his playing career is over. While he isn't sure if he will pursue hockey in post-secondary education, one thing Hall is considering is to possibly become a firefighter one day.

Being only 18 years old, Hall still has a lot of time to plan his future out, but school is on his radar in one form or another.

"Most players in this league plan to go the NCAA or the OHL, but for me I'm not sure yet what my future holds," Hall said, referring to playing at an American university in the National Collegiate Athletics Association or in the Ontario

Hockey League. "I really want to pursue something like firefighting, after the hockey career is done but at this moment I'm not 100 per cent sure yet."

The Huskies have the honour of being in the top five in league attendance (behind Collingwood, Trenton and Wellington), averaging more than 300 people per game. For Hall, the support from the town has been unreal and playing in front of these large crowds is unlike anything he has experienced before.

"When you look from the bench and the stands are full, it's an unreal feeling," Hall said. "I go to some other arenas and there are like 30 fans, there is no hype no noise nothing. But here, the fans are always cheering and the support is crazy good!"

When he is not training for games, Hall can usually be found hanging out with friends and family. Devoting a lot of his time to keeping in shape and making sure his on-ice performance is the best it can be, Hall still does like to relax once in a while with some video games and dinners with the team.

With the Huskies calling Haliburton County home, the local boys such as Hall and Joe Boice stand out to the hometown crowd. For Hall, the local push has helped him reach career high numbers and has given him a spark this season. Look for Hall to be defending the blue-line each and every game with everything he has.

Celebrate with a Highlands christmas throwback

KATE BUTLER

Haliburton Highlands Museum

Holidays link us with the past and to very loosely paraphrase Charles Dickens, not just the long past, but our own past.

Each year around this time, it's common to find ourselves listening to recordings made decades ago of music which may have been written centuries before. Watching television shows produced in the 1960s might not be something we do all the time, but a Charlie Brown Christmas or a Rankin Bass production somehow wraps around us like a warm blanket of memories. We prepare holiday foods that have a history, but might only appear once a year. Sometimes those recipes have a link to family and friends – a great aunt's appetizer, a family friend's cookie recipe – and the taste seems to take us right back to childhood.

Holiday trees are adorned with ornaments that each tell a story – an heirloom passed down or a crafting session with family from years before. Over the last couple of years, it seems like holidays and their traditions have taken on a new significance, as circumstances have kept a physical distance between

us and those we care about.

Though we're still living in unusual times, we can begin to gather again and we hope you'll come and celebrate with us.

The weekend of Dec. 18 and 19, we invite you to step into history at the Haliburton Highlands Museum with the Highlands Christmas Throwback, presented in partnership with Camexicanus and the Backroad Arts Collective. Join us for live music, holiday crafts, a festive photo booth and lots more, as you explore Christmases past. Discover how early settlers to the Haliburton area might have celebrated the holidays and enjoy some more recent nostalgia that's sure to kick up your holiday spirit a notch. There will be both outdoor and indoor activities, so make sure to dress for the weather and to bring a mask. COVID protocols will be in place. Stop by between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Dec. 18 or 19, or to see things in a different light, come by on the evening of the Dec. 18 between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. This is an all-ages event with activities for the whole family.

For more information, visit www.haliburtonhighlandsmuseum.com or visit our social media channels – we look forward to celebrating with you.

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Receiving the gift of the year

DARREN LUM

County Life Editor

Highlands' residents, who read County Life will know Tammy Nash's work by the cover photos depicting the wildlife here and now so will the rest of the country when they see this year's Nature Canada 2022 Calendar.

Passionate about photography, Nash is an Algonquin Highlands resident that won this year's Nature Canada photo contest with an image of a pine martin she called "Dean Martin" – a famous actor, singer and comedian in the mid-20th Century. The win earned her the calendar cover and a spot inside with the month of February, including a kayak trip with the Black Feather adventure company in the Georgian Bay Islands area.

Nature Canada is a national nature conservation charity and holds an annual photo contest. There were 7,500 entries in last year's contest.

She was happy about having her photo chosen for the cover for the first time.

"I am always surprised when I see wildlife and my first reaction is a big smile," she wrote in an email, referring to seeing her photo on the calendar.

Nash said she sent in close to 20 entries for this contest. She had entered this contest the past three years. She was a top-five finalist for the cover of the 2020 calendar with a black bear image, which was the image chosen for the month of September.



Tammy Nash's image of a pine martin was judged to be the best out of thousands of entries for the annual Nature Canada photo contest. Her win earned her image a place on the cover of the 2022 Nature Canada calendar cover and for the month of February. She also won a kayaking adventure in the Georgian Bay Islands area.

see page 16

STARTS NOVEMBER 19

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DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE MOOSE FM STATION IN HALIBURTON AT NOON ON DECEMBER 24, 2021.
WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED BY PHONE.

Contest open to all legal residents of Ontario. Adult prize winner(s) must be 19 years of age or older. Grand prize winner receives a Total of \$1500.00 (One thousand Five hundred dollars) in gift certificate from any Haliburton B.I.A member. Gift Certificate(s) can be one in the full amount of \$1500, or multiple denominations of no less than \$100. The Grand prize total is not to exceed \$1500. Ballots must be received by authorized Haliburton BIA merchant. Prize must be accepted as awarded and may not be substituted or converted to cash.

Merry Christmas

Dave, Michele, & Luke Shapiera
Along with the Staff
Andrea, Janine, Kristi,
Maureen, & Sandra

Our Best Holiday Wishes To You.

We cheerfully wish you a Merry Christmas with family & friends.
Thank you for your continued loyalty.

DAVID A.P. SHAPIERA B.A., LL.B.
Barrister & Solicitor



Tammy Nash's year also was highlighted by having her work included in the Canadian Geographic Wildlife 2022 Calendar with an image of a chipmunk.

Nash's best photos stare back

from page 16

Seeing the other entries' images inspires her, she adds.

The eye contact with the pine martin, which was captured on a trip up to Algonquin Park, is an attribute she works at capturing in all her wildlife images.

"I love eye contact from Dean and from any wildlife - it always makes for a better image but that doesn't always happen so you make do," she wrote.

It's not unusual for her to wait upwards of five hours to capture an animal.

Being typically close to her residence and near or on her ATV (or chair or on a rock), she will go back forth from her home and to a chosen spot on her property. While waiting in place she will quietly move around, taking photos of butterflies, dragonflies, chipmunks, flora and fauna to occupy her time.

"I try to look at everything in my surroundings and I seem to take notice of things that I normally wouldn't. For example, the way the light is on a leaf. I don't stay out that long in colder weather mind you," she wrote.

Nash's work has appeared in local newspapers, the cover of the Grundy Lake 2015 information guide, and in the Canadian Geographic Wildlife 2022 Calendar.

The photographer doesn't have any upcoming or ongoing projects and admits that isn't what she does.

"I just go out and take pictures of mother nature's beautiful animals and landscape and, if I see a contest or someone mentions one to me, I look in my archives and see what I have to offer as a submission," she wrote.

Nash's advice to aspiring photographers interested in capturing wildlife is to be respectful, give space and be patient.

"I go out a lot for wildlife pictures. I sit quietly for up to five hours sometimes and see nothing, but when I do see wildlife it is so exciting and makes me want to go out everyday. Just enjoy yourself and have fun with it," she wrote.



Nash's black bear image is in the 2020 Nature Canada Calendar for the month of September. / Photos submitted by Tammy Nash

Our best wishes to you and your family for health and happiness in the coming year.

HOLIDAY HOURS

DEC. 24....7 AM - 5 PM	DEC. 26....9 AM - 5 PM	DEC. 31....7 AM - 5 PM
DEC. 25....CLOSED	DEC. 27-30....7 AM-9PM	JAN. 1.....CLOSED

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Wildcats get into the giving spirit

The kindergarten classes at Archie Stouffer Elementary School are taking on a - "Giving To Others" project this holiday season. All students in Bonnie Tokar's and Robin Hewitt's, and Corinne McArthur's and Kristen Colliss's kindergarten classes made homemade Christmas cards and filled Christmas mugs with pouches of hot chocolate and individually wrapped chocolates for each and every individual resident at Hyland Crest Nursing Home this holiday season. We planned to show the residents that sending a kind message, caring for others, and doing kind deeds - is what the holiday season is all about. While learning about - our local

community, kindness, and thinking of others - The project fit perfectly with our learning goals. Parents in both classes have been amazing too. Their kind and generous gestures to donate Christmas mugs, wrapped chocolates, candy canes and gift wrap have been so supportive. It is amazing how a classroom community and parental support can come together to make such an impact. The simple gift of giving from the heart, makes a difference in the lives of others. We believe - this is what the true gift of giving is all about.

The kindergarten classes at Archie Stouffer Elementary School



The kindergarten classes at Archie Stouffer Elementary School fill Christmas mugs for Hyland Crest residents, as part of the "Giving To Others" project this holiday season. / Photos submitted by Bonnie Tokar

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Especially after the year that has been, we need to remember that Christmas is about peace, hope, love, joy and faith. It is our sincere wish that you experience these this holiday season and thank you for supporting our business this year.

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A group of kindergarten students at Archie Stouffer Elementary School show the Christmas cards they made to give to Hyland Crest residents.

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a Magical Holiday Season.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from
Derek, Sharon, Nick and Sam Rowden
And the Staff and Families of D & K Masonry
and D & K Epoxy Solutions*

Archie Stouffer Elementary School



Wildcats' well-wishes
Archie Stouffer Elementary School's Grade 1 class are wishing the public a merry Christmas and peace and earth this festive season. Submitted by Linda Shantz.



*Wishing You a
Safe, Healthy
& Happy
Holiday Season*

*From the Management and
Staff of Subway*

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Closed December 25th to March 1st for a short Hibernation

Archie Stouffer Elementary School



The artistic creations featuring peace signs from Archie Stouffer Elementary School Grade 1 students, who are in the classes taught by Chris Little and Elizabeth Adams. The students used water colour markers on the paper plates and then took them outside, so the falling snow would blend the colours together. Submitted by Chris Little.

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December 31 @ 2:00 p.m.
vs Caledon Admirals

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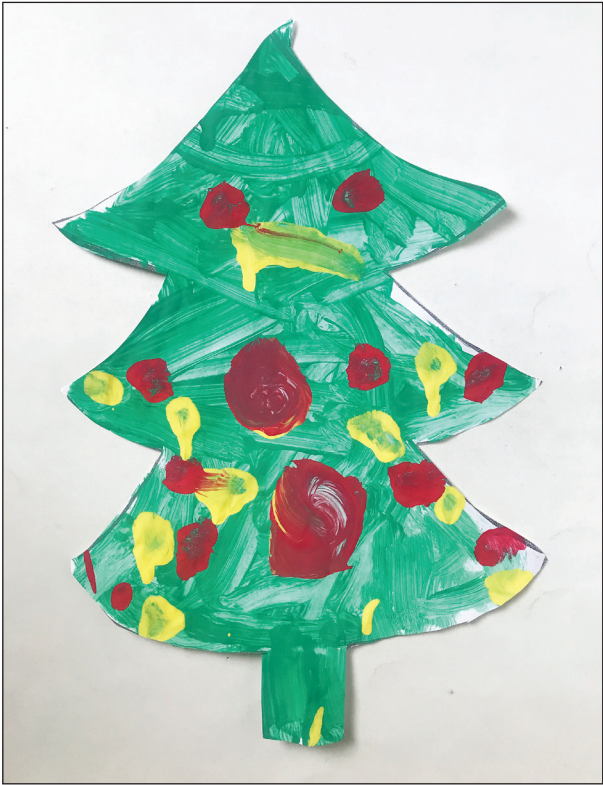
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Holiday artwork by students at Stuart Baker Elementary School

Stuart Baker Elementary School's junior kindergarten student Eve's Christmas tree.



Stuart Baker Elementary School's junior kindergarten student Lawson's Christmas tree.





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Season's greetings





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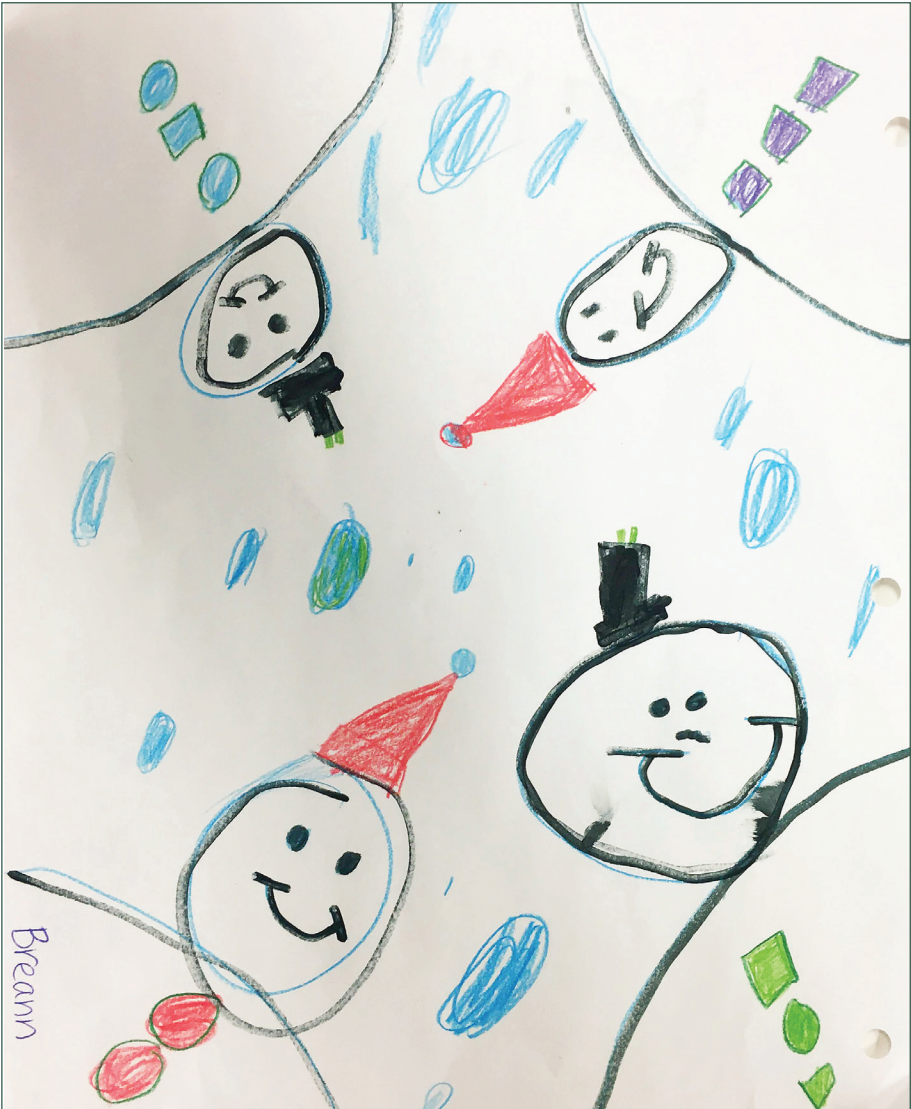


Archie Stouffer Elementary School

Archie Stouffer Elementary School Grade 4 class's "Snowman Huddle" challenge, which showed depth and having festive snow folks that were colourful. Submitted by Angela Pilgrim



Aidan



Breann

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- RICHARD MARGISON MASTERCLASS #3**
July 30th | 7:30pm | location TBD

OPERAS

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- FROM OPERA TO BROADWAY**
August 3rd | 7:30pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton
- POP GOES THE OPERA!**
August 6th | 7:30pm | location TBD
More opera and musical theatre favourites.
- A NIGHT AT THE OPERETTA**
August 9th | 7:30pm | location TBD
Merry Widow, Die Fledermaus, Gilbert & Sullivan!
Hear your favourites from the sparkling world of operetta!
- CELEBRATING DIVERSITY**
August 11th | 7:30pm
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- WHY CHOOSE OPERA?**
August 1st | 7:30 pm | location TBD
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- MUSIC ON THE BAY**
August 13th | 5:30pm | Fairfield Bay, Mountain Lake
Launch your boat on Mountain Lake, Minden Hills, and join
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- CASUAL SONG SOIRÉE**
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ASES



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Kieran, Kayla, Mike, Jessica, Mckye



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Merry Christmas and all the best in 2022!

Archie Stouffer Elementary School

Archie Stouffer Elementary School Grade 4 class's "Snowman Huddle" challenge, which showed depth and having festive snow folks that were colourful. Submitted by Angela Pilgrim



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Wishing you the
best of the Season



Allie



Liam

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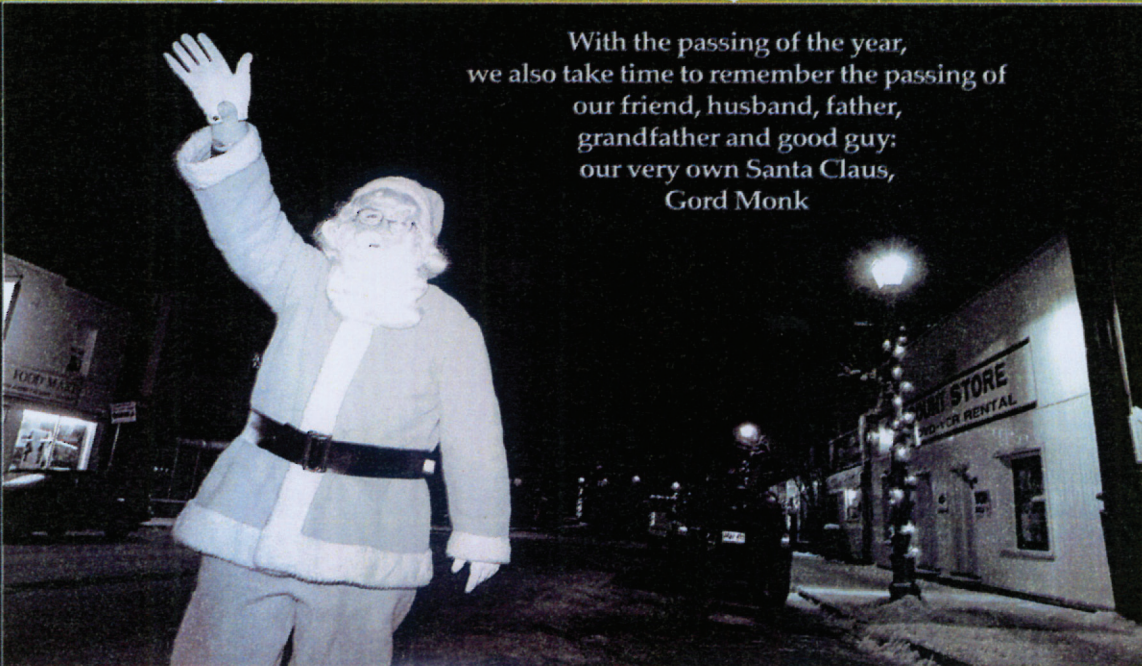
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Happy Holidays



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Archie Stouffer Elementary School



Michaela



Emerson



Quinn

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From all the Staff at

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Archie Stouffer Elementary School

Archie Stouffer Elementary School Grade 4 class's "Snowman Huddle" challenge, which showed depth and having festive snow folks that were colourful. Submitted by Angela Pilgrim



Shelby



Archie Stouffer Elementary School kindergarten students count numbers on the winter path during class earlier this month. Submitted by Bonnie Tokar.

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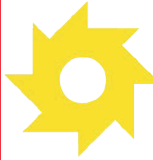


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Happy Holidays To All!



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Tofflemire

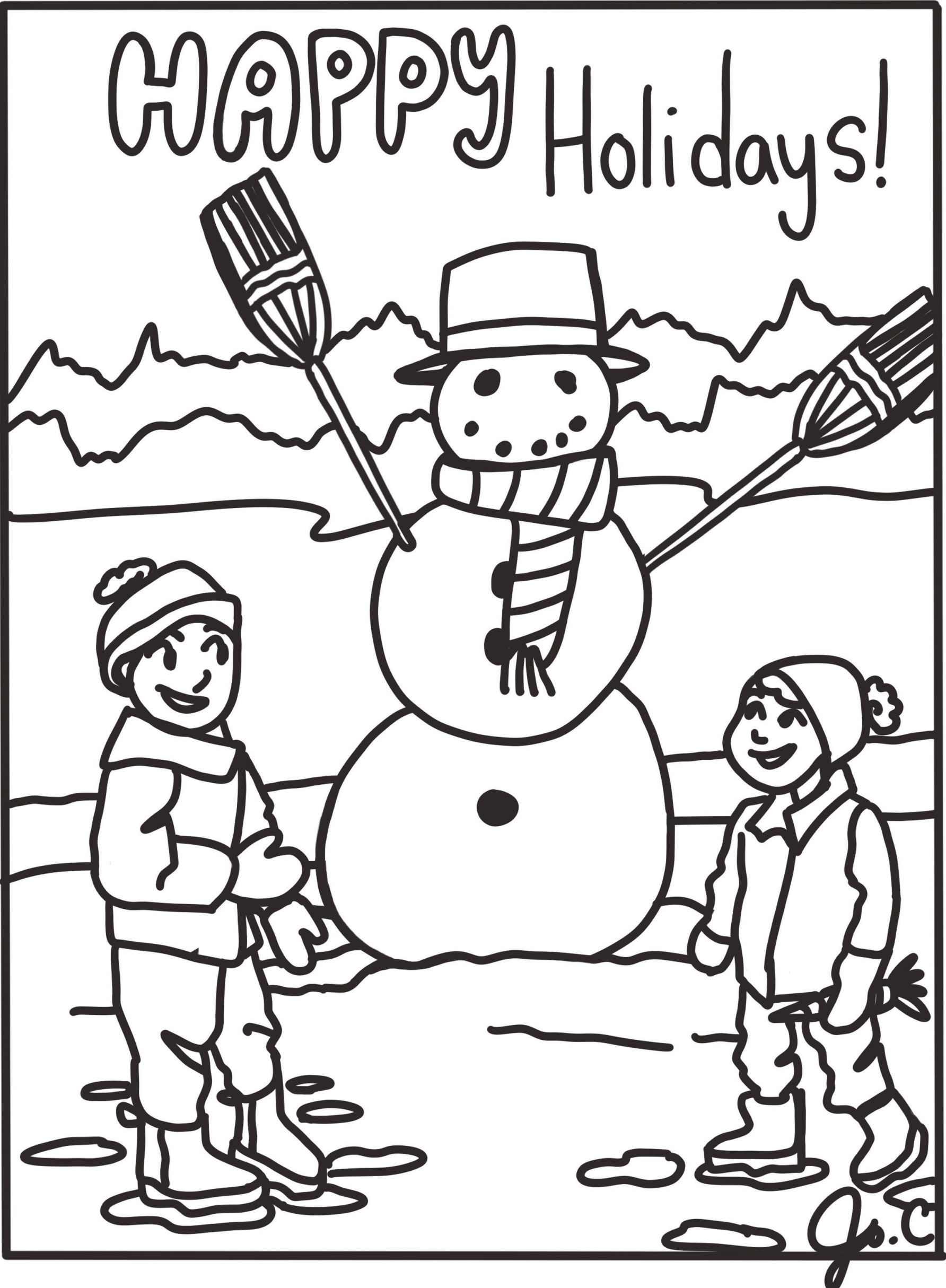
Merry Christmas



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Photography
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Art credited to HHSS Grade 12 student, Jocelyn Chumbley, who is 17. Her art can be seen @pink.cactusstudio on Instagram. Next year, she is planning to go to Sheridan College to study art fundamentals.

The artwork on this page is based on the story called, “The Dot” by Stuart Baker Elementary School’s Grade 2/3 French immersion class taught by Madame Zahab.

Holiday artwork by students



Avec un point, j'ai cree le soleil dans une scene de Noel par Austin.



Avec un point, j'ai cree une couronne sur la porte par Katie.



Avec un point, j'ai cree un couronne sur une porte par Hudson.



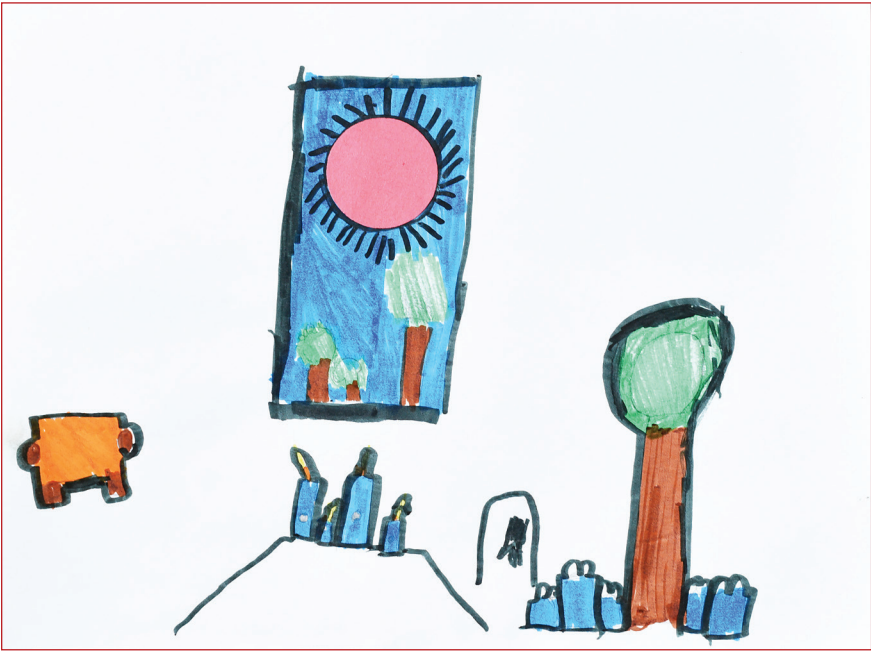
Avec un point, j'ai cree une couronne sur une porte par Isaac.



Avec un point, j'ai cree un soleil dans la scene de Noel par Oliver.



Avec un point, j'ai cree une menorah de Hanoukka par Rudy.



Avec un point, j'ai cree un soleil dans une scene de Noel par Ryker.

at Stuart Baker Elementary School



Avec un point, j'ai cree une chandelle mon point rouge est dans le miliedema chandelle par Alice.



Avec un point, j'ai cree une etoile sur un arbre dans une scene de Noel par Lilly.



Stuart Baker Elementary School's senior kindergarten student Frances' *The Christmas Dance*.

Legion Events

Branch 129 Haliburton
Tuesday night:
Dart League starting at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays:
Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m.
\$500 jackpot
Thursdays:
General meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays:
Meat draw with five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw - 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$2 per draw. Don Pitman, emcee
Friday fun darts - 4:30 p.m. onwards
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Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcl129@outlook.com visit haliburtonlegion.com
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*** New club room hours: Mon. 3 to 7 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed. to Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 2 to 6 p.m.**

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Holiday artwork by students

The artwork on this page is based on the story called, "The Dot" by Stuart Baker Elementary School's Grade 2/3 French immersion class taught by Madame Zahab.



Avec un point, j'ai cree un cadeau pour Noel par Mikayla.



Avec un point, j'ai cree un soleil dans une scene de Noel par Isaac.



Avec un point, j'ai cree la renne Rudolf dans un escere de Noel par Milanna.



Thank you for letting us help you see great and look your best!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



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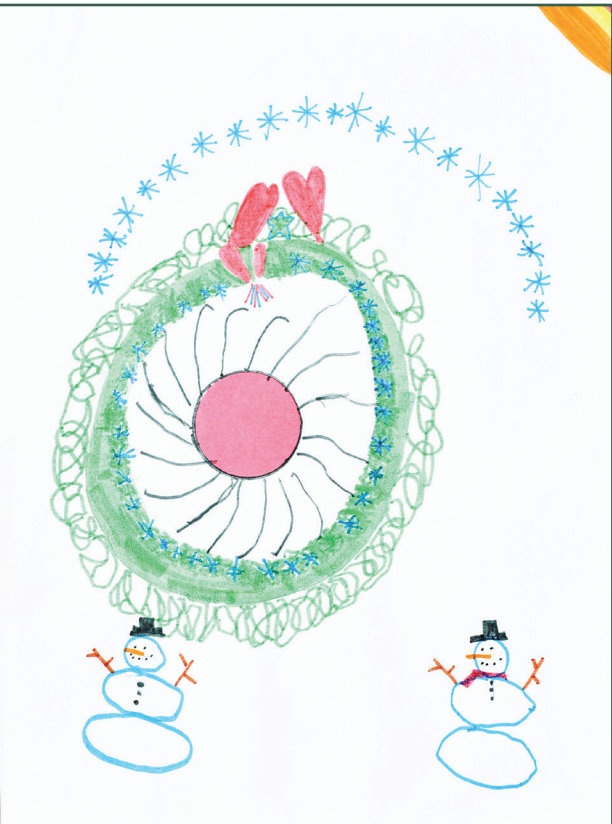
at Stuart Baker Elementary School



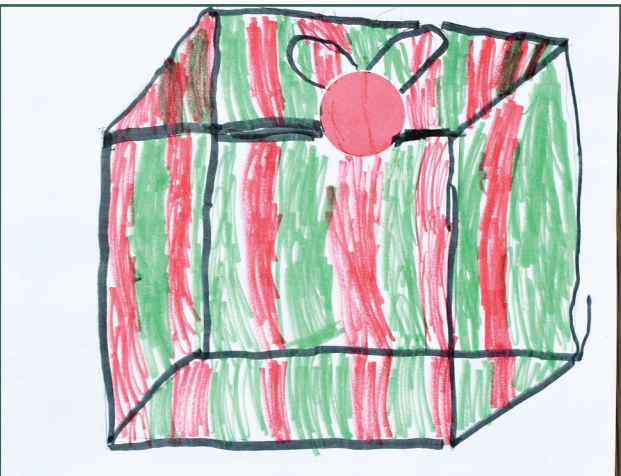
Avec un point, j'ai cree le fenne Rudolfe par Sophie.



Avec un point, j'ai cree nez la renne Rudolf par Luna.



Avec un point, j'ai cree une couronne de Noel par Elysse.



Avec un point, j'ai cree un cadeau de Noel par Gavin.

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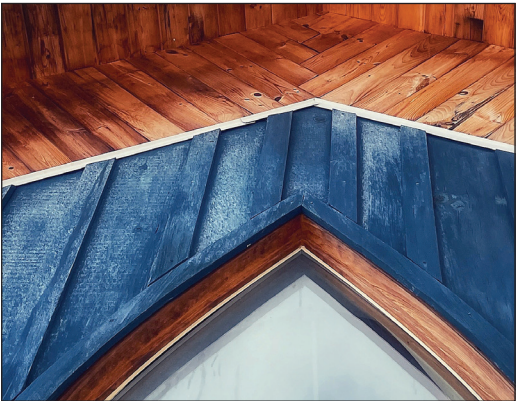
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Local Landmark reveal: Nature's Place in the village of Minden. This building, constructed in 2007 by the students in Fleming College's Sustainable Building Program, is a straw bale building with a variety of other construction features that make it environmentally sustainable. Extensive use of low-impact materials such as mud plaster reduce the original and ongoing environmental footprint of the building. Originally named after the reknowned wildlife author R.D. Lawrence, Nature's Place is dedicated to environmental education and interpretation. The building is visually compelling as well, incorporating, tree trunks and natural design motifs to both honour and reflect the natural beauty of the Haliburton Highlands. It is part of the historical and cultural complex surrounding the Minden Hills Cultural centre where you can also find the Agnes Jameson Gallery, the Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and the Minden branch of the Haliburton County Library. The cultural centre is a short walk from the shops, cafés and restaurants. It is a great destination on your next Haliburton Highlands roadtrip. /Submitted by Thom Lambert



Metal mystery
The following are images of a local landmark. Try to guess what the landmark is and see in the next week's County Life for the reveal. Concept and images from Thom Lambert, who has informative posts about things to see and do in the Highlands through Myhaliburtonhighlands on Instagram. Submitted by Thom Lambert.



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MOUNTAIN STREET \$539,000



Fantastic home, situated on a year-round road in a lovely private neighbourhood. This lovingly owned and maintained home features 3 bdrms and full bathrm on the main level. Enjoy tons of natural lighting in the bright, spacious living room, dining area and kitchen. Step out to the sunroom and feel immersed in nature - overlooking the beautiful flowing creek and forest. Finished lower level with den/bedroom, renovated 3pc bathrm, and large rec room. Great sized lot and large double carport. This family home offers endless possibilities.

KAWAGAMA LAKE \$279,000



Stunning south views across the lake. This property has a fantastic shoreline of mixed sand/gravel gradual entry to the water. Hydro is at the lot line and there is good cell service. This is easily accessible from either marina on the lake. Enjoy this affordable lot in the summer while you make your plans for your new cottage. Great fishing year-round and fantastic snowmobiling in the winter.

STILLS ROAD \$128,500

SOLD



This beautiful 1.2-acre building lot is located in the heart of Eagle Lake. Driveway installed and building site is cleared and ready for your year-round home or getaway. Many apple trees throughout the property. Stunning park-like setting. Surrounded by mature trees in a quiet neighbourhood. Paved year-round municipal road. Walking distance to Eagle Lake Country market, Eagle Lake public beach and boat launch. Stop dreaming and start building your dream home or cottage.

WENONA LAKE \$94,500

SOLD



Fantastic lot in a quiet area. This 0.42-acre lot is the perfect spot to build your families dream cottage or home. Conveniently located on a year-round road with hydro and telephone available and located 15 minutes from Haliburton village. Surrounded by mature trees providing ample privacy. 1/12 interest (ownership) in waterfront lot 62 which has a beautiful sand shoreline and western exposure overlooking Wenona Lake. Adjacent lot is owned by the municipality adding additional privacy.

CHELSEA LANE \$69,900

SOLD



This pretty 1.52-acre lot is in the vicinity of the 3 lake chain- Green-Maple-Beech. Deeded access to Maple Lake within walking distance. Situated just outside West Guilford, between Camarvon and Haliburton with easy seasonal access off HWY 118. The lot is fairly level with a slight elevation to a great spot to build your retreat. Surrounded by mature trees in a quiet area. Ample privacy and lots of space for the family to enjoy the outdoors.

FOUR REASONS TO LIST DURING THE WINTER

1) People who look for a home or cottage during the winter are more serious buyers. By listing now, you may have fewer showings but more qualified and motivated buyers.

2) Buyers have more time available to look for a home or cottage during the winter season.

3) Serious buyers have fewer houses and cottages to choose from during the winter. You will have less competition, resulting in a quicker sale and a better price for you.

4) Homes and cottages "Show Better" when decorated during the holidays. These decorations will create a warm atmosphere making it feel more like "home" to the buyer.

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Gifts *from* *the* Heart

“SIRCH provides an impressive array of supports for the more vulnerable members of our society, from meal provision (Community Kitchen), to family programs (Share the Warmth, School's Cool, Way to Grow) and social enterprises (Thrift Warehouses, Bistro & Marketplace). These services have a positive impact on the physical and emotional well-being of our community.”

- Dr. Laurie Brown

Former Owner, Haliburton Veterinary Services

As we enter into the second full winter of the COVID-19 pandemic, things are slowly improving for many of us, however; that is not the case for our most vulnerable residents. Diminishing government supports, precarious housing, and rising prices for basic necessities are of great concern for us at SIRCH as we undertake our 10th annual Gifts from the Heart campaign.

Last year we asked for your help. Because of your generosity, SIRCH provided over 35,000 meals, soups and fruit FREE to those in need! It is essential that we continue to produce healthy meals to meet the urgent need in Haliburton County.

You can help make it happen.

Please give generously to SIRCH's Gifts from the Heart.



**Donate online: www.sirch.on.ca/donate
e-transfer: donate@sirch.on.ca
or phone SIRCH: 705-457-1742**



"I had been part of a mom's group at SIRCH so in desperation I called them. The woman who answered was calming and kind. She said they could get me some meals and have them delivered by a volunteer. When the meals were dropped off I saw they had given us enough for 4 days and every meal had lots of protein and vegetables. But SIRCH had also put in soups, desserts, and fresh fruit! I have to say that for the first time in a long time I felt hope."



"Thank you so very much for the [free] meals again. I have one senior tenant that has asked me 4 times if I have thanked you. She lives alone with no way to get groceries right now as her son lives out of the area and always came every couple weeks to get her groceries, but he hasn't been feeling well and is afraid to make her sick, so he hasn't been coming. Thank you so much for caring!"



Please mail this form to SIRCH Community Services, P.O. Box 687, 49 Maple Avenue, Unit 4, Haliburton ON K0M 1S0.

- ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$_____
- ☐ I wish to make a monthly donation on my credit card. Amount \$_____
- ☐ Cheque enclosed (payable to SIRCH Community Services)
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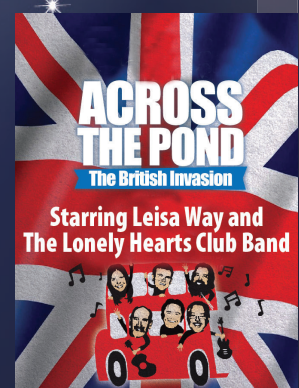
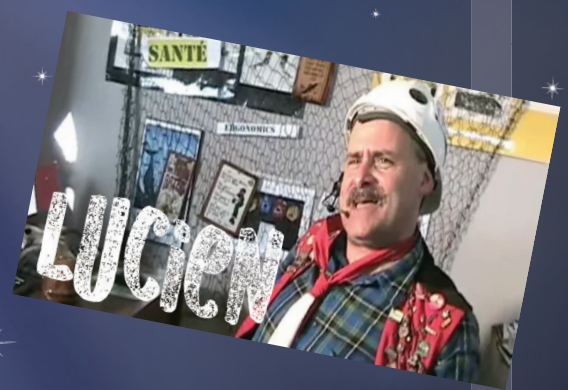


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